

Appendix 1. Coalition members' experience in promoting broadband adoption and access

1) CBE members' involvement in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

The first eleven of the CBE member organizations listed above were contractual partners or active participants in the Connect Your Community (CYC) Project, a U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Sustainable Broadband Adoption project operated from 2010 to 2013 by Cleveland-based OneCommunity. OneCommunity's CYC Project engaged fifteen community-based nonprofit partners to recruit, train, equip and support new broadband adopters in eight localities in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, North Carolina and Florida. The CYC Project exceeded its goal of 26,000 documented "Sustainable Broadband Adopters" including about 23,000 previously unconnected home broadband subscribers, and provided free basic computer training to more than 33,000 individual adult participants in the process. The 20-hour CYC classes were conducted by CYC Corps Members and volunteers in more than 350 separate community locations.¹¹

During the same period, the Cuyahoga County and Youngstown/Mahoning County Public Libraries were active partners in another BTOP SBA project, Connected Nation's "Every Citizen Online".²² Over the course of the program, Cuyahoga County Public Library served 10,523 participants at 13 locations. CCPL's locations were just 6% of the program's total locations in Ohio but saw 11% of the attendees in the state. The Youngstown/Mahoning County Public Library made a more modest but still significant contribution to the program.

The City of Milwaukee, in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Library, the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board and the United Community Center, received a BTOP Public Computer Center grant in 2011 to create and operate a program called

1 See <http://www.connectcommunity.org> for more information.

2 See <http://connectohio.org/every-citizen-online> for an overall description of the program.

Connecting Milwaukee Communities. The program improved and expanded the city's network of public access computer centers, including Milwaukee Public Library neighborhood branches, a Senior Center and Housing Authority sites which serve both Authority tenants and the public. The BTOP program provided formal computer training to 7,332 city residents in 2012 and 2013. Though the BTOP program concluded in 2013, the public access computer centers continue to operate.³³

All told, since 2010 the Coalition's members worked with the Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program to provide digital literacy training and broadband adoption support to residents of at least 25,000 mostly low income Ohio households in Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain and Mahoning Counties; as many as 7,000 households in Milwaukee; and at least 1,500 households in Winston-Salem. The members affiliated with the OneCommunity Connect Your Community Project documented at least 9,000 new residential broadband subscribers in these communities as a direct result of the Project's efforts, of whom over 80% subscribed to unsubsidized commercial ISP services after CYC training.

2) Other CBE members' experience in promoting broadband adoption and access

- The Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition of Dayton is a community organization in Dayton's oldest African-American neighborhood. It provides educational programs, operates a community garden and green house, and runs a community computing center. Since 1996 it has been active in efforts to expand access to telecommunications in low income communities and to overcome the digital divide.
- Connecting for Good has been bridging the Digital Divide in low income neighborhoods of Kansas City (both Missouri and Kansas) since 2011 with wireless mesh networks, community technology centers, low cost refurbished PCs and free digital life skills classes. It is the only

3 See http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/grantees/city_of_milwaukee.pdf.

Kansas City area nonprofit, that has digital inclusion as its core mission.

- Dayton Metro Public Library and Greene County Public Library provide extensive computer and Internet access and training to thousands of residents of their respective counties who would otherwise remain unconnected.
- Seeds of Literacy has offered free and easily accessible adult literacy services in Cleveland since 1997. During this time, over 7,500 students have received basic education and GED preparation – over 1,200 in the past year. SOL now provides basic computer training to its GED students, including Northstar Digital Literacy Certification, to prepare them for the fully computerized GED testing process which was adopted nationwide in 2014.